

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FUNDING FOR EIGHT PROJECTS IN MISSISSIPPI COUNTY

On Tuesday, November 23, 2010, Anita J. (Janie) Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development hosted an event at the Mississippi County Ambulance District to recognize several entities who partnered with Rural Development in order to acquire needed vehicles and equipment in Mississippi County.

The Mississippi County Ambulance District was awarded a grant in the amount of \$105,000 to acquire a new ambulance to replace an outdated model. The District was also granted \$87,000 for four (4) 12-lead heart monitor defibrillators that have become the standard in emergency care. The new monitors can send information to hospitals within a 50-mile radius, allowing emergency personnel to be prepared for patients en route to the hospital.

The City of Charleston received American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to attain a leaf collector and vacuum machine. These two pieces of equipment will allow the City to keep debris out of the storm water sewer system and off of the city streets.

The East Prairie Nutrition Center was also awarded ARRA funds. The Center purchased an emergency generator that will enable the Nutrition Center to serve as an emergency shelter for residents in case of a disaster or extended power outage.

The City of East Prairie benefitted with \$94,858 in grant funds for four projects: a street seal-coating machine; two electric vehicles for use by the City's Humane Officer and Code Enforcer; a bucket truck to perform maintenance on City owned property; and two replacement police vehicles.

Dunning, said "Funding these essential pieces of equipment will improve the safety of the residents and assist with the maintenance of public property. These investments mirror President Obama's initiatives for rural America and Rural Development's commitment to the future of rural communities. Appreciation is also extended to our Federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians."



Included in the photo: Representing USDA Rural Development: Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director, Cathy Walters, Area Specialist and Phyllis Minner, Area Specialist. Representing the City of Charleston: Mayor Jack Feezor and Dan Gruen, City Manager. Representing the Mississippi County Ambulance District: Phil Patterson, Director, Bill Feezor, President and Jayne Reno, Secretary. Representing the City of East Prairie: Lonnie Thurmond, Administrator and Danny Lafferty, Chief of Police. Representing the East Prairie Nutrition Center: Sari Kersey, Administrator and Mike Hogan, President

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has utilized a variety of programs and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information regarding any of the USDA Rural Development programs is available by contacting the Charleston Rural Development Office at [cathy.walters@mo.usda.gov](mailto:cathy.walters@mo.usda.gov) or by calling 573-649-9947, ext. 4. Rural Development's web site is: [www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo).

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

**“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”**

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